



## NEWS RELEASE

**Potato Production & Stocks**

**December 13, 2002**

### **NORTH DAKOTA POTATO PRODUCTION DECREASES**

#### **North Dakota**

Potato production in North Dakota is estimated at 23.5 million hundredweight (cwt) for 2002, down 11 percent from last year and the lowest since 1997's 22.0 million cwt, according to the North Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. The decrease is due to a combination of fewer harvested acres and reduced yields per acre. Since 1990, production has ranged from 16.7 million cwt in 1990 to 30.0 million cwt in 1991.

Planted acreage totaled 118,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Harvested acreage, at 102,000, was down 7 percent from last year. Yield averaged 230 cwt per harvested acre, down from 240 cwt per acre last year and below the record high yield of 245 cwt per acre in 2000.

Russet potatoes harvested accounted for 47,500 acres, 46.6 percent of the total harvested acres, down from last year's 51,500 acres. Whites increased to 40,000 acres harvested, 39.2 percent of the total harvested acres, and reds decreased to 14,500 acres, 14.2 percent of the total harvested acres. Last year whites totaled 39,500 acres and reds 19,000 acres.

Of the total production, russet potatoes accounted for 58.1 percent, whites 30.9 percent and reds accounted for 11.0 percent. Last year russets accounted for 61.4 percent of the production, while whites accounted for 27.4 percent and reds accounted for 11.2 percent.

#### **United States**

Production of fall potatoes in the United States for 2002 is forecast at 417 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from November and 6 percent above last year. However, this is 11 percent smaller than the record high 2000 crop. Area harvested, at 1.11 million acres, is up 4 percent from last year but 7 percent below two years ago. The average yield is forecast at 374 cwt per acre, 3 cwt above last month and 7 cwt above last year.

### **NORTH DAKOTA DECEMBER 1 POTATO STOCKS DECREASE**

#### **North Dakota**

Stocks of potatoes in storage facilities of North Dakota growers, dealers and processors on December 1, 2002, were estimated at 16.0 million hundredweight (cwt), down 18 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2000. Current stocks represent 68 percent of the production, down from 74 percent in 2001 and 69 percent in 2000. Total stocks are defined as all potatoes on hand, regardless of use, including those that will be lost through future shrinkage and dumping.

Comparing stocks by type, russets accounted for 63 percent of the total, unchanged from 2001, but down from 67 percent in 2000. Round whites held 16 percent of the total, unchanged from 2001, but up from 15 percent in 2000. Long whites held 6 percent, down from 7 percent in 2001. All white potatoes, at 22 percent of total stocks, were down from last year's 23 percent, but up from 21 percent in 2000. Reds increased to 15 percent, up from last year's 14 percent, and up from 12 percent in 2000.

#### **United States**

The 15 major potato States held 265 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, 2002, up 2 percent from last year but 15 percent below 2000. Storage accounted for 65 percent of the 2002 fall production, down 2 percentage points from last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 11 percent round white, 3 percent long white (Shepody), and 83 percent russet; with more round whites and fewer long whites and russets than a year ago. Disappearance, at 146 million cwt, from the start of harvest to December 1, is up 13 percent from the same period last year but 2 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.2 million cwt, is up 10 percent from last year and 14 percent below two years ago. Processors used 77.6 million cwt of 2002 crop potatoes so far this season, up 18 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below two years ago. Dehydrators used 15.7 million cwt to date.

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FALL POTATOES: BY TYPE, NORTH DAKOTA

Item	Planted	Harvested	Yield	Production	Dec 1 Stocks
	--- Acres ---		--- Cwt ---	--- 1,000 Cwt ---	
	2001				
Reds	21,500	19,000	155	2,945	2,730
Whites	41,500	39,500	183	7,230	4,485
Russets	55,000	51,500	315	16,225	12,285
TOTAL	118,000	110,000	240	26,400	19,500
	2002				
Reds	19,000	14,500	178	2,580	2,400
Whites	47,500	40,000	181	7,250	3,520
Russets	51,500	47,500	287	13,630	10,080
TOTAL	118,000	102,000	230	23,460	16,000

FALL POTATOES: ACREAGE, PRODUCTION AND DECEMBER 1 STOCKS <sup>1/</sup>

State	Acres Planted		Acres Harvested		Yield per Harvested Acre		Production		Total Stocks	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	--- 1,000 Acres ---				--- Cwt ---		--- 1,000 Cwt ---			
NORTH DAKOTA	118.0	118.0	110.0	102.0	240	230	26,400	23,460	19,500	16,000
California	3.2	8.9	3.2	8.9	445	500	1,424	4,450	1,200	1,500
Colorado	68.1	71.6	67.8	71.5	315	390	21,357	27,885	15,600	20,100
Idaho	350.0	375.0	348.0	373.0	345	358	120,200	133,385	87,500	92,000
Maine	62.0	64.0	62.0	64.0	265	265	16,430	16,960	12,200	12,600
Michigan	46.0	46.5	45.0	45.5	310	305	13,950	13,878	8,200	7,900
Minnesota	59.0	61.0	55.0	55.0	335	340	18,425	18,700	12,000	12,000
Montana	10.5	10.3	10.3	10.2	320	315	3,296	3,213	3,000	3,050
Nebraska	22.5	21.5	22.4	21.3	375	395	8,400	8,414	4,850	5,650
New York	23.5	22.5	23.3	22.0	255	250	5,942	5,500	2,400	2,500
Ohio	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.2	255	240	1,097	1,008	300	190
Oregon	45.0	50.0	44.5	49.8	466	501	20,730	24,936	17,500	18,000
Pennsylvania	14.0	15.0	13.5	14.0	235	185	3,173	2,590	1,800	1,200
Washington	160.0	170.0	160.0	170.0	590	560	94,400	95,200	53,000	53,000
Wisconsin	84.0	85.0	83.0	83.0	385	375	31,955	31,125	19,700	19,500
15 State Total							387,179	410,704	258,750	265,190
UNITED STATES	1,091.5	1,143.5	1,073.2	1,114.1	367	374	393,750	417,010		

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 2002 totaled 29.3 cwt.

FALL POTATO STOCKS: DECEMBER 1, 2002

State	Percent of Stocks by Type							
	Red		Round Whites		Long Whites		Russet	
	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002	2001	2002
	--- Percent ---							
NORTH DAKOTA	14	15	16	16	7	6	63	63
Colorado	6	4	1	1			93	95
Idaho		1			6	4	94	95
Maine	4	4	48	47	3	2	45	47
Michigan	1	1	90	88			9	11
Minnesota	8	12	5	7			87	81
New York	5	5	90	90			5	5
Oregon	1	1		1	2		97	98
Pennsylvania	3	3	97	97				
Washington	1	1	1	1	4	6	94	92
Wisconsin	5	3	12	31			83	66
11 State Total	3	3	9	11	4	3	84	83

